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CLASSIFICATION

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY British Occupied Germany

TOPIC: 3. Schwedt Airfield

2. New Forces Present in Neighborhood

EVALUATION.

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

2581A

DATE OBTAIN

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REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. In mid-August 1951, the military airfield on the northeastern perimeter of Schweidnitz (P 51/H 18) was occupied by the Soviet Air Force. No construction was observed at or near the field. Four brick buildings and three wooden sheds, probably storage facilities, were located in the southeastern portion of the field by the side of a spur track. All the seven buildings and the spur track leading to them were surrounded by a wire fence and guarded by Soviet soldiers. (1) The landing field which had a firm grass cover measured about 1,000 x 1,300 meters. No runway or taxiway was available. Twelve small wooden hangars with a capacity of one to two trainers each were observed in the western section of the field. Another hangar next to the small wooden hangars was damaged. Aircraft observed at the field included about 20 two-seater biplanes with radial engines and rigid landing gear and 6 twin-engine planes with radial engines and single rudder assemblies. The aircraft took off and landed individually. No formation and night flying or acrobatics were observed. (2)

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- 2 Motor vehicles observed in Schweidnitz and at the field included

3. Source, who stayed in Schwerin, reported that the echelon Soviet Air Force headquarters was located in the town. A large number of high ranking Soviet Air Force officers with their dependents were observed. Installations occupied by the Soviet Air Force included:

- a. Former Grenadier Kaserne on Grenadierstrasse quartering the air force personnel stationed at the field.
 - b. Barracks installation west of Grenadier Kaserne quartering a Soviet AAA unit.

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- c. A five-story building on former Hindenburgstrasse, northeast of the main railroad station, probably occupied by the air force town komendatura. On 18 August 1951, four trucks with air force soldiers from the former Grenadier Kaserne parked in front of this building. The detachment, which was led by a sergeant, assembled and was reported to an officer who came out of this building. Thereupon, the soldiers boarded the trucks, which left in different directions. The same observation was made on 24 August. (4)
- d. A three-story villa on former Franz Becker Strasse, in front of which two large sedans were parked. A Soviet Air Force general was seen leaving this building. Adjoining this villa was a three-story building to which many Soviet Air Force officers drove in sedans.
4. The sector of the town south of Grenadier Kaserne was declared a restricted area and was occupied exclusively by Soviet officers' dependents. The approaches to the area were blocked. Northwest of Grenadier Kaserne, there was another smaller town quarter occupied by the Russians. Soviet offices and shops were also observed on streets north and east of the main railroad station. About 15 two-story one-family houses and small villas, most of them occupied by Soviet Air Force officers' dependents, were observed at the end of the street leading from Schweidnitz-Vorstadt railroad station to the northwest. Another block of residential buildings, also occupied by Soviet Army and Air officers' dependents, was north of Schweidnitz-Vorstadt railroad station. (5)

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- Comments.
- (1) This statement refers to a supply depot which presumably serves the entire military post of Schweidnitz. According to another source, this depot consists of 7 or 8 multi-story buildings, each about 50 meters long, which are set up in two rows parallel to the railroad line, with other wooden sheds between them. The depot was built after 1935 and was used as a German Army ration supply depot during the war. 25X1A
- (2) These planes probably wore trainer versions of the Po-2 and Li-2 or Yak-15 transports and liaison planes.
- (3) [] were previously observed in Silesia. [] leg and Liegnitz airfields. It cannot be determined whether all of the motor vehicle [] reported are assigned to the Soviet Air Force. 25X1B
- (4) This statement probably refers to the guard details assigned to the various air force buildings in the town.
- (5) This report indicates that Schweidnitz airfield is still only lightly occupied and that an enlargement of this installation is not planned. From this it can be concluded that the field is not scheduled to be occupied by a combat unit with modern equipment. The heavy occupation of the former Grenadier Kaserne by air force soldiers supports the previous assumption that a technical air force school for ground personnel with repair facilities is located there. [] The presence of a previously reported test stand was confirmed by a resettler. It is believed that primarily aircraft engines are overhauled there. Basic pilot training is given at the airfield, and the pilots apparently receive their technical training at the air force technical school. The observation of many air force officers indicates the presence in Schweidnitz of a high echelon air force headquarters, possibly the Hq Fourth Air Army. The headquarters of air corps are generally located closer to the units assigned to them. 25X1A

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ATTACHMENT

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Annex to

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Legend:

- 1 Supply depot
- 2 Destroyed hangar
- 3 Small wooden hangars
- 4 Low wooden building
- 5 Railroad repair plant
- 6 Billeting area for officers' dependents
- 7 Schweidnitz-Vorstadt railroad station
- 8 Buildings occupied by high-echelon air force headquarters
- 9 Grenadier Kaserne occupied by Soviet Air Force
- 10 Barracks building occupied by Soviet AAA unit
- 11 Restricted town sector
- 12 Schweidnitz main railroad station
- 13 Town komendatura

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Annex to

Schweidnitz Airfield and Air Force Installations

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